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DISTRESS AT NOTTINGHAM.

The number of persons receiving parish pay in the parish of St. Mary's, in Nottingham, is at present between nine and ten thousand, out of a population of twenty-four thousand ! The number of paupers in the other parishes is nearly in the same proportion. Thus more than one-fourth of the population of this once flourishing town, is reduced to a state of extreme poverty, by the continuance of the ruinous war in which we are engaged—a war undertaken to stifle the infant liberties of France, but which will terminate in the destruction of our own national prosperity. With facts like these before our eyes, it is truly astonishing to see the unblushing impudence of those men who cry up the measures of Mr. Pitt, and tell us they have raised our country to its present height of glory !!! It is equally astonishing to see other men, the pretended champions of humanity, deprecating the petitions for peace, which are now pouring in on Parliament from the midland counties.—A public meeting is called by the Mayor of Nottingham, on the 28th instant, to petition for peace.—*Leeds Mercury.*

DINNER AT PERTH.

On the 20th ult., a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Perth, celebrated the 99th birth-day of his daughter, by giving

an entertainment in the Hammermen's tavern, to 29 persons, answering to the description given in Luke xiv. They were poor, maimed, halt, and blind, who could make no recompence to their benefactor. After the company had been reminded of the gratitude they owed to the providence of God, for raising up a person to feed the poor and needy, and a blessing had been supplicated on his mercy, a plain dinner was served up, and followed by one glass, which was drunk by the guests to the health of that family by whom they had been so liberally supplied. Each person received a six-pence to purchase tobacco, and they all separated in about an hour, full of gratitude.

DISTRESS AT SPITALFIELDS.

A most distressing scene was lately witnessed at No. 9, Pelham-street, Spitalfields, owing to the officers of the parish of Mile-end Newtown, distraining the goods of a poor industrious coal-beaver of the name of John Jennings. He has lately been out of work, and has not now even a bed to lie upon for himself and his family. The wife of this poor man has had twenty children, six of them twins; and to complete his affliction, one of his sons, now 17 years of age, is deaf and dumb, and unable to do any thing to get his bread.

AGRICULTURAL REPORT.

From the 20th November to the 20th December, 1819.

Some fine weather has occurred since last Report, which afforded a favourable opportunity for raising what remained of the late crop of potatoes, and sowing wheat on the ground. The very high price of that grain has induced the farmers to sow almost every acre in their possession that was suitable for it; and in many instances they have been tempted to use land, very badly calculated to make them a profitable return.

The long continuance of wet weather has retarded the exercise of the plough; and a much less proportion of land is turned over than is usual at this advanced time of the season; which will occasion a great press of work to be done in the spring, unless the succeeding month proves dry, and without frost.

The price of all sorts of grain continues high, and consequently oat-meal and potatoes keep much above what they usually bring at this season. Whether it is owing to a real demand, a deficiency of the crops, or speculation, seems not fully ascertained. Great variety of opinions is entertained on the subject.

COMMERCIAL REPORT.

In the midst of the distress affecting the manufacturing interests, from the consequences of the American war, flattering hopes were suddenly raised, from the expectation that the ports of the Baltic would be open for our commerce, and that British manufactures would again be permitted to enter the markets, at least in the north of Europe. These hopes are, however, only prospective: while the loss of the American market is real and immediate. In the hopes of the market being opened in the north, colonial produce rose rapidly, on the first dawn of expectation; and from the probability of a supply, Baltic produce fell. But when speculators had time to

cool, the former experienced a depression ; and the detention of so many British vessels in the Baltic, from the danger of passing the Sound in the winter, will have a tendency to enhance the prices of such articles, as come from Russia, until the spring will permit the sailing of the fleet.

A letter from Liverpool, of 23d instant, thus describes the state of their market in no very flattering terms.

" Since the highest prices to which many articles of American produce have attained, no positive reduction can perhaps be accurately quoted, and the holders, for the most part, do not evince any apprehension of a decline, by forcing sales ; but we are decidedly of opinion, that purchases could be made upon lower terms of several descriptions of produce. As present, the demand is so completely suspended, that we can only describe the market, by saying, that we have *nothing doing*. We may quote nominally, for Upland Cotton 21d. to 22d., New Orleans, 22d. to 2s., Sea Islands, 2s. 8d. to 3s. 4d. per lb. Turpentine, 40s. to 44s. per cwt. Tar, 40s. to 42s. per barrel. Tobacco, 5d. to 15d. per lb. Good ashes, if any can now be so called, 64s. to 67s. per cwt.

" British plantation sugar has continued to advance, and rates generally at 78 to 88s. per cwt. Coffee has declined considerably ; perhaps 8 to 10s. per cwt.

" Our stocks of grain are unprecedentedly small, but we hear from all quarters, that the daily expected arrivals will be so numerous, that no one is inclined to purchase. Wheat is worth 17s. to 18s. per 70lbs. Oats, 6s. 3d. to 7s. 3d. per 45 lbs. Barley, 8s. to 9s. per 60 lb., and Flour, 78s. to 80s. per 120lbs."

The war with America furnishes a dark shade in our domestic situation, whether considered in a political or commercial point of view. From the President's Message to Congress, there is reason to hope, that the Americans will give up the seizure of British and Irish property, which was introduced into that country after the suspension of the Orders in Council, in the hopes, that the non-intercourse law would immediately cease to operate, but in the mean time, America had declared war. If this property is given up for the benefit of the owners, an act of national justice will have been performed, and the Americans, at a period of general disregard to national honour, will be the first to uphold the almost forgotten doctrine of morality between nations. How this law is mutually transgressed by governments, appears from the conduct of the British and Danish governments, on the breaking out of hostilities between them. Britain seizes Danish vessels in our ports, and applies the amount to swell the misapplied and iniquitous funds of the Droits of the Admiralty. The government of Denmark confiscates British property in their territories, and puts the amount into the treasury. In both cases, private individuals suffer, while the governments are enriched, by the plunder of each other's subjects.

The tendency of the long continued state of commercial hostility with America, now confirmed by actual war, has been to encourage American manufactures, and to advance them much more rapidly than if they had been left to their natural course, in a state of peace. Shut out from the facilities of procuring British manufactures, and thus gradually weaned from their use, they have relied on their internal resources, to manufacture for their own consumption. Cotton mills have increased rapidly in most of the states. The manufacture of linens has spread so much in the interior parts of the country, as nearly to render them independent of supplies from Ireland, of the coarser kinds ; and the manufacture of woollens, contrary to the expectation of some, has succeeded rapidly. The breed of domestic sheep has improved prodigiously, by proper management, as well as by the introduction of merinos from Spain. So that even on the return of peace, the Americans, from the improvement of their manufactures, will be found much less dependent on us for supplies. This is a state, which will be severely felt in these countries, where the heavy pressure of national debt and expenditure can only be borne through the assistance of an extended and lucrative trade.

It remains yet to be seen whether the Americans, by sanctioning the system of British licences, will permit their flour and wheat to be sent to supply the armies in the Peninsula ; and to furnish flaxseed to Ireland for next spring's sowing. On their compliance, it will probably depend, whether the present high prices of grain will continue ; and if flaxseed should not arrive, another heavy privation will be added to the miseries attendant on warfare.

The system of licences, as at present practised by the nations at war, is iniquitous in the extreme. The belligerent governments forbid all commerce between the respective countries ; they then issue licences for a partial permission to trade, and draw emoluments to themselves, by granting these licences. Under their sanction, by a thin

veil of neutrality, trade is carried on, supported by fraud and perjury: for these pretended neutrals have false colours, and false custom-house papers, which latter are procured by false affidavits. The entire system is debasing in the extreme, alike injurious to private morals, and a sense of national honour.

Distillation from grain is now prohibited, both in Great Britain and Ireland. The Irish distillers are justly disappointed in their shameful attempt to induce, by large offers, government to permit them to go on for three months. To their infinite disgrace, the distillers manifested, that all feelings of humanity, in a total disregard to the sufferings of the poor, from the high prices of provisions, were absorbed in a sordid attention to their own interests.

The poor are already greatly distressed by the high prices of all the necessaries of life. Accounts from Scotland represent the harvest in the Northern parts as in a most deplorable state. Among the Occurrences is placed an account of the distress, and some consequent riots at Aberdeen, extracted from the *Morning Chronicle*, which has not yet found its way into our Irish papers. Distress also is very great in Dublin, from the failure of an eminent house in the military clothing line, and other failures in consequence among the clothiers, by which many looms in that part of the city called the Liberty, are thrown idle, and the distresses of that all always wretched portion of the population of Dublin is greatly increased.

The state of our depreciated paper-currency does not improve. Its relative value to bullion remains with little variation from the prices stated in last month's report. The exchange with foreign countries is another test of its depreciation. Bills drawn in the Peninsula are at a discount of 30 per cent., making a loss of so much to government for all the bills drawn by their commissaries, thus enhancing the prodigious expenditure of the campaign.

The hardihood of ministers, and the obsequiousness of Parliamentary majorities, have been lately glaringly exhibited on the question of the depreciation of our circulating medium. The bill passed last session to prevent the sale of guineas, and now just re-enacted, is in direct opposition to one of the resolutions moved by the present Chancellor of the Exchequer, Vansittart, prior to his being in that station, in opposition to the report of the Bullion Committee, "that a one pound Bank of England note and one shilling, are in public estimation equal to a guinea." While the bill was in progress this session, which so completely contradicts this assertion, by rendering the acquiescence, declared by the resolution voluntary to be compulsive, Samuel Whitbread, to prove how far effrontery would carry the minister and his adherents, moved to expunge the resolution. Without any debate, or assigning any proof, the house immediately proceeded to re-resolve their former resolution, and thus the vote of the house, and their own bill, stand completely at variance. If the one-pound note and the shilling represented a guinea in public estimation, there would be no need for an Act of Parliament to render the acceptance compulsory.

Exchange on London has generally, through this month, been in Belfast at $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent.

CELESTIAL PHENOMENA.

FOR JANUARY, 1813.

On the 2d, is new moon, at 57 minutes past 4 in the afternoon.

On the 16th, is full Moon, at 40 minutes past 5 in the afternoon.

On the 1st of February the sun will be eclipsed, partly visible in Belfast; the sun rises eclipsed about the time of the greatest obscuration; the eclipse ends at 49 minutes past 8 in the morning.

Mercury rises on the 1st, at 49 minutes past 7, A.M.

Venus rises on the 1st, at 56 minutes past 5, A.M. Mars, at 5 minutes past 3, A.M. Jupiter, at 12 minutes past 6, P.M. Saturn, at 43 minutes past 8, A.M. Georgian, at 8 minutes past 5, A.M.

On the Comets which appeared in 1811; by the Chevalier Delambre, perpetual Secretary to the Imperial Institute.

In the year 1811, two comets were discovered in the south of France. The first was discovered at Viviers, on the 26th of March, 1811, by M. Flaugergues, correspondent of the Imperial Institute. It then gave only a very feeble light, and was without any apparent tail or nucleus. On the 19th of April, M. Burckhardt could see it with the finder of his telescope; but the telescope itself made it indistinct, because it magnified it too greatly. Curious people ran in crowds to the Imperial Ob-